

# WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

## FOR NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

### December 2003



State of Wisconsin  
Department of Workforce Development  
Office of Economic Advisors

#### Unemployment rates rise more slowly than usual in November

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In **Adams County**, the November unemployment rate was 1.3 percent below its typical November level. For much of the last year, the rate has been between 0.4 percent below its typical level to 0.3 percent above. The rate didn't fall, it simply rose more slowly than usual. The decline in leisure & hospitality employment estimates appears to be mostly or entirely seasonal.

**Forest County's** unemployment rate hit its typical November level exactly, but has been so volatile lately that this offers little insight. Leisure & hospitality added fewer jobs this summer than last, and doesn't appear to be losing fewer jobs this fall than it did last. Now it has 30 percent fewer jobs than it had last November.

After seeing summer rates 2.4 percent to 2.9 percent higher than typical, a November rate 1.3 percent higher than typical is better than anything **Langlade County** has seen in the last 12 months. From May to September, manufacturing employment estimates were nearly matching last year's estimates from the same months. Comparing last November to this November shows 5.6 percent fewer manufacturing jobs.

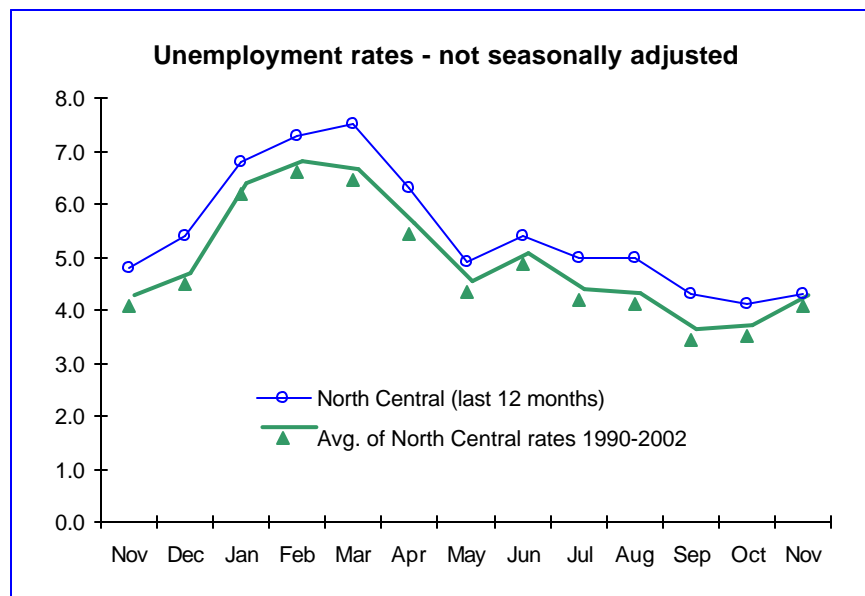
Rising more slowly than a usual November, **Lincoln County** was 0.3 percent above its typical November unemployment rate. Recent fluctuation relative to typical levels has been wide enough and fast enough that a few months of traveling in the same direction would be necessary before a trend could be spotted. In leisure & hospitality, this August saw 120 more jobs than last August, and this November saw just 40 more than last November, reflecting increased seasonality. Manufacturing job estimates continue to be below last year's levels, with little sign of strong or sustained recovery.

Falling in a month when it usually rises, **Marathon County's** unemployment rate was 0.2 percent below its typical November level. Though not as encouraging as last January's

rate (0.5 percent below typical), the November rate is considerably closer than July through September rates (0.4 percent to 0.6 percent above typical). Retail trade employment is following seasonal patterns roughly similar to last year's. Since July, manufacturing employment estimates have generally been above last year's levels, though a bit more volatile.

**Oneida County** saw its unemployment rate climb more slowly than usual, leaving it 0.2 percent above typical levels. This reflects a noticeable change from summer rates 1.2 percent to 1.3 percent above typical levels. This August saw 1,040 more leisure & hospitality jobs than last August, while this November saw 250 more than last. Despite the expected seasonal decline, construction employment estimates remain well above last year's levels.

The unemployment rate in **Portage County** was 0.1 percent above its typical November level, after summer rates 0.7 percent to 0.8 percent above typical levels. Manufacturing added fewer jobs this May and June than last, and seems to be shedding jobs nearly as quickly this autumn as it did last autumn.



Rising more slowly than it typically does, **Vilas County's** unemployment rate was 0.4 percent above its typical level. From December through August, rates were usually between 1.3 percent and 1.9 percent above typical levels. Leisure & hospitality saw fewer jobs added this summer than last and more jobs shed this fall than last. Information, professional, business & other services added far fewer jobs this summer than last and shed fewer jobs this autumn than last.

**Wood County's** unemployment rate rose more slowly than it typically does in November, leaving it 1.1 percent above its typical level. This is closer to typical than September and October rates, but not as close as April or May rates. In July and August, leisure & hospitality employment estimates were 310 above the same months last year; November's figure was 140 above last November's. Retail & wholesale trade has added jobs in recent months, probably mainly seasonal retail jobs, but not enough to reach last year's levels for the same months. Manufacturing and construction estimates follow last year's seasonal patterns, but remain below last year's levels.

Employment by industry estimates - not seasonally adjusted															
	Wisconsin		Adams		Forest		Langlade		Lincoln						
	Nov 2003	1-month change	Nov 2003	1-month change	Nov 2003	1-month change	Nov 2003	1-month change	Nov 2003	1-month change					
Total jobs, all industries*	2,799,800	-4,500	-5,200	4,300	-70	130	3,300	10	-130	3,700	20	40	12,200	-70	-50
Const., min'g & nat. resources	123,800	-3,800	-6,400	280	-10	40	90	-10	-20	160	0	20	480	-10	10
Manufacturing	508,300	-1,100	-16,500	430	-10	-10	320	0	-20	490	10	-30	3,600	-40	-60
Trade (wholesale & retail)	446,100	4,600	9,400	560	10	20	320	0	10	670	0	20	1,790	30	30
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	105,200	400	-100	140	0	0	180	0	-10	180	0	-10	390	0	-40
Financial activities	158,500	800	4,600	90	0	0	90	0	0	190	0	0	770	0	10
Education & health services	372,500	100	10,900	460	0	-10	340	-20	0	310	0	40	970	10	0
Leisure & hospitality	232,400	-7,000	1,000	700	-60	70	180	-10	-80	280	-10	20	1,120	-50	40
Info, prof, bus. & other srvc	430,100	-4,100	1,400	350	0	10	120	0	-70	300	0	0	1,000	-20	30
Government	422,900	5,600	-9,500	1,250	-10	20	1,610	50	40	1,090	20	-20	2,100	10	-60
Civilian Labor Force**	3,074,600	-15,900	58,500	8,800	-110	380	4,800	10	-70	10,000	-40	-40	14,900	-50	250
Employed	2,937,600	-11,900	71,800	8,500	-140	490	4,500	-10	-60	9,200	-90	30	14,100	-100	320
Unemployed	137,000	-4,000	-13,400	340	30	-110	280	10	-10	740	50	-60	770	50	-70
Unemployment rate (%)	4.5	-0.1	-0.5	3.9	0.5	-1.4	5.8	0.2	-0.2	7.4	0.6	-0.6	5.2	0.4	-0.5
	Marathon		Oneida		Portage		Vilas		Wood						
	Nov 2003	1-month change	Nov 2003	1-month change	Nov 2003	1-month change	Nov 2003	1-month change	Nov 2003	1-month change					
Total jobs, all industries*	70,800	100	300	18,700	-250	100	34,300	20	280	8,200	-230	-260	45,100	270	350
Const., min'g & nat. resources	2,800	-200	-100	1,430	-90	80	1,050	-40	0	930	-40	30	1,590	-90	-50
Manufacturing	18,400	200	500	1,320	10	-150	5,200	-380	-530	390	-10	-100	7,600	-70	-370
Trade (wholesale & retail)	15,000	400	200	4,000	10	60	5,600	470	290	1,380	0	70	6,900	380	-90
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	2,800	0	-200	430	-10	-10	1,820	0	-80	110	0	0	3,300	10	90
Financial activities	4,200	0	-200	560	0	20	3,800	20	-90	330	10	30	1,150	0	90
Education & health services	6,800	-200	200	3,100	20	-50	3,100	30	140	740	0	20	11,300	30	630
Leisure & hospitality	4,800	-100	100	2,800	-220	250	3,800	-190	330	1,490	-200	-230	2,900	-90	140
Info, prof, bus. & other srvc	7,900	-100	-200	2,400	-30	-30	3,700	-40	80	380	-10	-170	4,800	-40	-30
Government	8,100	100	0	2,700	60	-60	6,100	160	130	2,500	20	90	5,500	140	-60
Civilian Labor Force**	77,200	20	1,920	22,000	-230	260	39,600	-20	1,140	11,800	-60	290	41,900	240	1,350
Employed	74,600	70	2,300	20,900	-380	490	38,200	-30	1,270	11,100	-200	260	39,900	170	1,290
Unemployed	2,600	-50	-380	1,090	150	-230	1,390	10	-130	660	140	30	2,000	70	50
Unemployment rate (%)	3.4	-0.1	-0.6	5.0	0.8	-1.1	3.5	0.0	-0.5	5.6	1.3	0.2	4.8	0.1	0.0

Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Numbers = 2,000 are rounded to nearest 100; numbers < 2,000 rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers; results rounded.

\*Includes jobs with employers in area. \*\* Includes labor force participants residing in area.

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